

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /065 W

-----141210Z 121434 /45

R 131200Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1619

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EAID, EAGR

SUBJECT: EC FOOD AID TO PAKISTAN

REFERENCE: STATE 102180

1. EMBASSY AG ATTACHE AND AID MISSION HAVE EXAMINED THEIR RECORDS ON COMMERCIAL WHEAT IMPORTS AND CAN IDENTIFY NO RPT NO COMMERCIAL IMPORTS SINCE JULY 1976. WE NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSED 36,000 TONS OF FAC GRANT WHEAT, ABOUT 41,000 TONS OF CANADIAN GRANT WHEAT HAS JUST ARRIVED IN KARACHI. THE GOVERNMENT'S STOCK POSITION AND THE FACT THAT WHEAT HARVEST HAS ALREADY STARTED MEAN THAT PAKISTAN DOES NOT NEED ADDITIONAL IMPORTS, FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AT LEAST. THE GOVERNMENT MAY FACE A STORAGE PROBLEM AS PROCUREMENT PROGRESSES.

2. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE CURRENT WHEAT HARVEST AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL IS NOT AS BRIGHT AS IT APPEARED TO BE EARLY IN CY 1977. WE ESTIMATE THAT ACREAGE PLANTED TO WHEAT MAY HAVE INCREASED BY UP TO 3 TO 4 PERCENT. FERTILIZER USAGE IS ALSO SHARPLY UP (ABOUT 20 PERCENT) FROM LAST YEAR, AND THE OPERATION OF TARBELA DAM HAS

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INCREASED THE AVAILABILITY OF IRRIGATION WATER. HOWEVER, WEATHER CONDITIONS THIS SEASON HAVE BEEN VERY UNFAVORABLE. THE WINTER RAINS WERE LATE AND INADEQUATE, DAMAGING THE RAIN-FED CROP, AND THE PREMATURE HOT SPELL IN MARCH SEEMS TO HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BOTH THE IRRIGATED CROP AND THE RAIN-FED AREAS. THE LATE RAINS, WHICH SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED LAST WINTER, HAVE COME DURING HARVEST

IN THE NORTHER PUNJAB THUS INCREASING THRESHING AND STORAGE LOSSES. NEVERTHELESS, HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ARE SAYING THAT THE CURRENT CROP WILL BE 200,000 TONS MORE THAN LAST YEAR'S. GIVEN THE POOR WEATHER IT MAY NOT BE BETTER, DESPITE THE LARGER ACREAGE AND INCREASED USE OF FERTILIZER, AND COULD EVEN BE UNDER LAST YEAR'S CROP.

3. THERE IS STILL SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITHIN PAKISTAN AS TO THE SIZE OF LAST YEAR'S CROP. THE EARLY GOP OFFICIAL ESTIMATE WHICH THE AGATT ACCEPTS WAS 8.3 MILLION TONS. HOWEVER TOP GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN RECENTLY HAVE BEEN PUTTING IT AT 8.8 MILLION TONS AND IN SOME CASES 9.0 MILLION TONS. USAID CONSIDERS THIS A REASON-ABLE RANGE. GIVEN THE HEAVY CONSUMPTION LAST YEAR AND THE PROJECTIONS FOR THE 1977-78 CROP, PAKISTKAN PROBABLY WILL NEED TO IMPORT SOME WHEAT DURING FY 1978. WE HAVE HEARD THAT AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON WHEAT AID REQUIREMENTS FOR FY 1978 IS BEING DISCUSSED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT AN OVERALL IMPORT PLAN IN THE RANGE OF 500,000 TO 800,000 TONS IS LIKELY TO BE PRESENTED IN AN AIDE MEMOIRE. GIVEN THE LOW WORLDWIDE PRICE FOR WHEAT WE BELIEVE IMPORTS IN THIS RANGE MAY BE DESIRABLE EVEN IF PRIMARILY TO BUILD UP RESERVE STOCKS. ANY RECOMMENDATION ON PL-480 LEVELS FOR FY 1978 WILL HAVE TO AWAIT BETTER INFORMATION ON THE HARVEST AND OTHER FACTORS.  
AMSTUTZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** EAID, EAGR, PK, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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